

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-10, 12-14, 16-24, and 26-36 were previously pending in this application. In this response, no claims are amended or canceled. Claims 1, 4-10, 12-14, 16-24, and 26-36 remain pending.

35 U.S.C. § 102 and 35 U.S.C. § 103 REJECTIONS

Claims 1, 4-6, 8-10, 12-14, 16, 18-24, 26-28, 31, and 33-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,636,838 to Perlman et al. (hereinafter "Perlman"). Claims 7 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Perlman in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,681,327 to Jardin (hereinafter "Jardin"). Claims 29, 30, and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Perlman.

Applicants herewith supply a Declaration under 37 CFR §1.131 showing that the applicants were in possession of the invention at least before the effective date of Perlman, which is February 23, 2000. In view of the attached Declaration and Exhibit A, the applicants have demonstrated prior conception and due diligence in reduction to practice in at least one the United States, a NAFTA country, and a WTO member country, before the effective date of Perlman. Accordingly, Perlman should be removed as a reference and claims 1, 4-6, 8-10, 12-14, 16, 18-24, 26-28, 31, and 33-36, as well as all additional dependent claims, are allowable and the rejections thereof should be withdrawn.

Type of Response: Non-Final Response
Application Number: 09/681,203
Attorney Docket Number: 158520.01
Filing Date: 2/21/2001

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above remarks it is submitted that the claims are patentably distinct over the prior art and that all the rejections and objections to the claims have been overcome. Reconsideration and reexamination of the above Application is requested. Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that the pending claims be allowed, and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If the Examiner believes, after this response, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicant's agent at the telephone number listed below.

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If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee that is not covered by an enclosed check please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-0463.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: February 1, 2007

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION
(Under 37 CFR § 1.8(a)) or ELECTRONIC FILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being electronically deposited with the USPTO via EFS-Web on the date shown below:

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Noemi Tovar
Printed Name

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